

Wild & Cultivated: Fashioning the Rose
16 March – 19 June 2022

'Won't you come into the garden?

I would like my roses to see you.'

(Attributed to Richard Brinsley Sheridan [1751-1816] playwright and poet)

The Garden Museum's spring/summer 2022 exhibition will explore the use of roses in fashion from the Victorian era to today, with designs from Alexander McQueen, Ashish and Comme des Garçons amongst other historic and modern collections.

The rose and fashion are inextricably entwined.

Roses, like fashion, are a luxury and they are ephemeral; they are both 'shown' seasonally; their appeal is multi-sensorial, and they each incite passion and obsession. Throughout history artists, designers and writers have explored this fragrant flower and its deterrent thorns (technically they are prickles) – a conjunction of opposites - to draw out illusions to love, beauty, sexuality, sin, rites of passage, degradation, and death.



Primrose Archer Dressed In Flowers From My Garden, Hackney, 2020 © Tim Walker Studio



Ashish Spring Summer 2017 ©IMAXtree

A creative collaboration between guest curator Amy de la Haye and famed set designer Simon Costin, this exhibition will also draw inspiration from the Garden Museum collection and gardens to explore the tensions between wild and cultivated, natural and artificial roses within fashion apparel, image making and contemporary craft practices.

Fashions designed by Alexander McQueen (fashion's rosarian) and Comme des Garçons will be shown alongside 'rosy' undergarments dating from the 18th century and the latest gender-neutral designs by Ashish. Accessories will include including millinery by Stephen Jones and Philip Treacy; a rose bucket bag by Lulu Guinness and a selection of gorgeously decorated fans. Simon Costin's dramatic 'Rose and the Nightingale' neckpiece - which ruptures the wearer's skin when worn -

and a jet mourning brooch will communicate the rose as a metaphor for the savage pain of love unfulfilled and forever lost.

The ways roses can interact with the dressed body will be explored by a group of studio portrait photographs dating from the mid-19th century. Illustrations by JJ Grandville and Walter Crane will highlight mid-to-late 19th century debates on wild and 'engineered' cultivated roses, and roses and gendered identities.

Painted and botanical portraits and gardeners' impressions of roses, drawn from the Garden Museum's archive and special loans, will be shown alongside contemporary images. The Museum is delighted to also feature Nick Knight's sublime 'roses from my garden' and Tim Walker's romantic surreal photographs.



Stephen Jones, La France, photography Peter Ashworth

Roses bloom from May until November, and since Ancient Egyptian times 'permanent botanicals' have been crafted as surrogates for when the earth no longer yields natural blooms. The galleries of the Garden Museum and its gardens will be filled with a profusion of wild and cultivated, natural and artificial roses.

Wild & Cultivated: Fashioning the Rose will also include rarely seen items from the Garden Museum Collection, including Ellen Willmott's volume of botanical lithographic illustrations of roses *Genus Rosa*, and photographs of roses taken by horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll which illustrate how she used roses in garden design, intertwining them with honeysuckle in arbours and around trellises.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue and a programme of public events including talks, workshops and a Friday Late.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Images

For high resolution images please contact Bethany@gardenmuseum.org.uk.

Guest Curators

This exhibition is a creative collaboration between Amy de la Haye and Simon Costin, who both work with fashion and share preoccupations with popular culture and the land.

Amy de la Haye is a curator and writer. She is Professor of Dress History & Curatorship and Joint Director of the research Centre for Fashion Curation at London College of Fashion. SHOWstudio host her 'Fashion in a Time of Crisis' platform. Amy's most recent exhibition, and publication of the same title (Yale University Press), was *Ravishing: The Rose in Fashion* at the Museum at FIT in New York. She was Curator of 20th Century Fashion at the V&A 1991-99. Much of her work comprises telling stories of lives lived using dress as primary evidence.

Simon Costin is a set designer, curator and museum director. He has worked as creative director and set designer for fashion clients including Alexander McQueen, Maison Margiela, Lanvin, Hermes and H&M and collaborated with photographers Nick Knight Tim Walker and Paolo Roversi. His work has been exhibited at the ICA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the V&A. Simon is the Director of the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (Cornwall) and the Museum of British Folklore (no fixed venue). Running throughout his work is an eye for the fantastical, magical and surreal.

Garden Museum

The Garden Museum is housed in the deconsecrated church of St Mary-at-Lambeth. The Museum contains the burial place of John Tradescant, an early gardener and plant hunter. In order to preserve his tomb, Rosemary Nicholson founded the Museum in 1977. The Museum explores and celebrates British gardening through its collections, temporary exhibitions, events and garden visits. Visitors will enjoy the permanent collection of paintings, tools and ephemera and historic artefacts, all providing a glimpse into our love affair with gardens.

Whether you are an enthusiastic amateur gardener, more of a specialist or someone with a passion for museums, history or architecture, the Museum has something for you.

Visitor Information

Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7LB

020 7401 8865; www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Admission: £12.50, concessions apply, see website for details

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday: 10.30 – 17.00



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David Austin Roses is delighted to support the Garden Museum's Wild & Cultivated: Fashioning the Rose exhibition in spring/summer 2022.

2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the world-leading rose breeder's much-loved and industry-respected Handbook of Roses, making its partnership with The Garden Museum a wonderful addition to a celebratory year, and unique opportunity to share its passion and love for roses to an ever wider- audience of gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

David Austin Roses Limited is a world-leading breeder of fine English Roses. A family business based in the Shropshire countryside, the company has over 200 varieties of roses to its name. In 1961, David Austin Snr (1926-2018) introduced his first English Rose, 'Constance Spry'. Now, 60 years on,

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